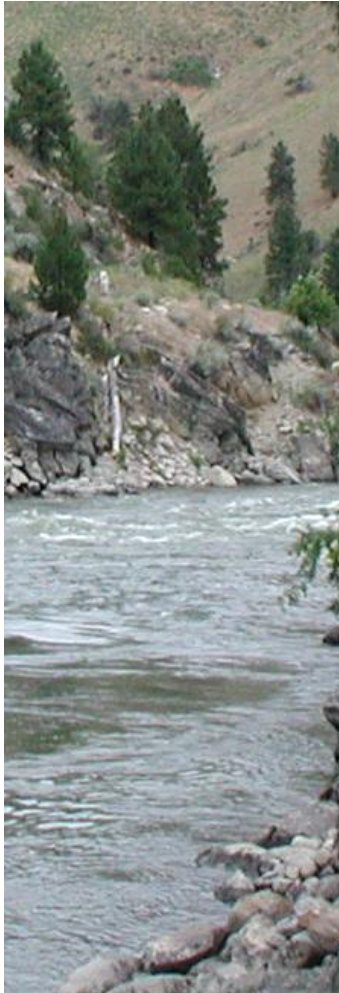


RMP NEWS

FOUR RIVERS PLANNING AREA

Volume 2, Number 2
October 2008

UPDATE ON SCOPING MEETINGS



Vision Statement

The Four Rivers Field Office will manage its public land base to support a sustainable diversity of recreational and commodity uses while maintaining open space and ecological productivity.

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Boise District has been working hard on the new Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Four Rivers Planning Area.

In the spring and early summer of 2008, the Four Rivers Field Office (FRFO) and planning staffs hosted nine meetings in Boise, Nampa, Mountain Home, Weiser, Payette, Emmett, Eagle and Council with a total of 89 attendees.

Comments were received at the meetings, through letters and faxes sent to the Boise District Office and e-mail at four_rivers_rmp@blm.gov. Over the course of the scoping period, 138 letters were received, containing 270 individual comments.

During this same period, briefings were also given to the Governor's office, local Native American Tribes, BLM Resource Advisory Council (RAC), Congressman Simpson's staff, and Owyhee County. Updates were presented to the nine counties'

Commissioners, Caldwell City Council and special interest groups.

This edition of the *RMP News* contains an account of the issues heard, and a discussion of public opportunities available to help BLM as we go forward in this process.

We will soon begin developing alternatives for future management. A key element of this process is to identify special places and resources that need protection or enhanced management emphasis.

In this newsletter, we will give you information about the types of special designations that can be created through the RMP process, and how you can help.

For more information, please contact me at (208) 384-3305 or e-mail jonathan_m_beck@blm.gov.

Jon Beck
Planning Team Lead



Issues identified during the Scoping process.

Following the public scoping meetings, BLM staff classified the comments into broad categories to create a snapshot of the public's major concerns. The nine categories, by percentage, are:

- Special Designations/Open Space (32%)
- Land Management/Realty (16%)
- Water Resources (13%)
- Travel Management (12%)
- Recreation (9%)
- Grazing/Extractive Use (7%)
- Fire Management/Weeds (4%)
- Wildlife (4%)
- Other (3%)

Some issues were raised that will not be addressed because they lie outside BLM's administrative and/or jurisdictional authority or conflict with Federal policy guidelines. These have been identified in the scoping report, which is available at http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/four_rivers/Planning/four_rivers_resource.html.

Special Designations: What are they and how does one nominate an area?

BLM uses Special Designations to identify and set aside certain areas for special management, including the protection of plants, animals or special recreation opportunities. In the planning area, BLM presently manages two Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), seven Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), five Research Natural Areas (RNAs) and a candidate for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) System.

Other types of designations include Back Country Byways/Sites and Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs).

Wilderness: New WSAs cannot be designated in the RMP. However, for public lands

possessing one or more wilderness values, protective actions to preserve those values can be proposed in the alternatives. Wilderness values include:

- Naturalness (appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature).
- An opportunity for solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreational experience.
- **May** also contain ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic or historical value.

ACEC: ACEC nominations must meet both of the following criteria :

- **Relevance** – A significant historic, cultural or scenic value; a fish or wildlife resource or other natural system or process or natural hazard must be present (i.e., sensitive archeological resources or endangered, sensitive or threatened species).
- **Importance** – The resource value shall have substantial significance and values. This generally requires qualities of more than local significance and special worth. A natural hazard can be important if it is a significant threat to human life or property (i.e., areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, etc.)

Additional criteria for ACEC designation include the need to provide special management emphasis at a more specific level than normally provided in an RMP.

WSR: WSR nominations may be submitted, but designations cannot be made within the RMP process.

During Scoping, several comments were received about the need to create ACECs and SRMAs in the Planning Area. These included an ACEC for Packard's milkvetch, slickspot peppergrass, and greater sage-grouse, as well as the continuation of the current long-billed curlew ACEC.

SRMA: One SRMA (Rocky Canyon/Woods Gulch) exists in the planning area. This SRMA is centered in the Boise Foothills to sustain non-motorized trail opportunities. In general, an SRMA is designated to highlight management of an area for recreational purposes.

Proposals or questions regarding the Special Designation process should be referred to Jon Beck at 208-384-3305 or Mike O'Donnell at 208-384-3315. More information on special designations can be found at http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/four_rivers/Planning/four_rivers_resource/links_and_references.html under "BLM NEPA and Planning".

Special designation proposals **will be most useful** to the planning process **if received by December 31, 2008**.

Where do we go from here?

The BLM is starting to develop management alternatives for the Planning Area. They will then be analyzed to determine the impacts they have on the natural, social and economic environment. The alternatives will be based on objectives developed from the public's issues. Public involvement throughout this process will help ensure that we adequately identify and meet the area's long term needs. You will be given the opportunity to comment on draft alternatives, either orally in public meetings, in writing or electronically through BLM's web site.

How can I stay involved?

Public involvement is critical to the success of this multi-year planning effort. In addition to structured meetings and workshops, the BLM will continue to provide various opportunities for public participation and comment, including individual and group interviews, e-mail (Four_Rivers_RMP@blm.gov), access to the RMP planning web site (http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/four_rivers/Plan

[ning/four_rivers_resource.html](http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/four_rivers/Planning/four_rivers_resource.html)) and written comments.

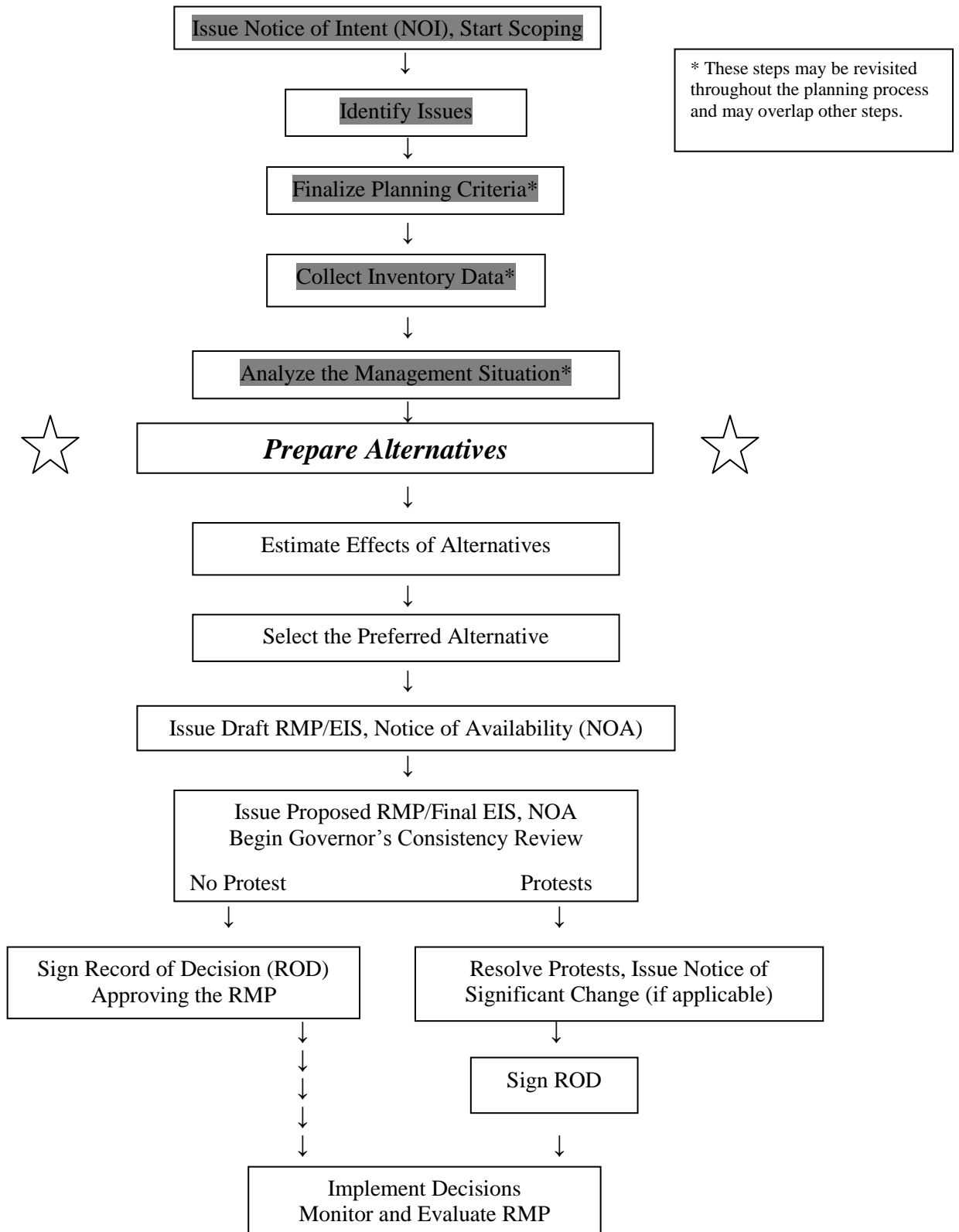
Future newsletters will provide information about upcoming opportunities for involvement.

Economic workshops scheduled in the FRFO Planning Area.

The BLM is sponsoring county-wide economic workshops in the Planning Area to discuss local and regional economic conditions, trends and strategies with community organizations, civic leaders, local government officials and the public. The results from these workshops will be used as background in the development of the RMP and its associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Workshops will be held in:

- Horseshoe Bend – High School
October 21 6:00-8:45 pm
- Glens Ferry – Carmela Winery
October 23 9:00 am-3:30 pm
- Idaho City – Ray Robison Community Hall
October 28 6:00-8:45 pm
- Weiser – Washington Co. Courthouse
October 29 1:00-3:45 pm
- Emmett – City Hall
November 6 9:00 am-3:30 pm
- Payette – Payette Co. Courthouse
November 10 6:00-8:45 pm
- Council – Adams Co. Courthouse
November 17 1:30-3:30 pm

RMP/EIS LEVEL PLANNING PROCESS



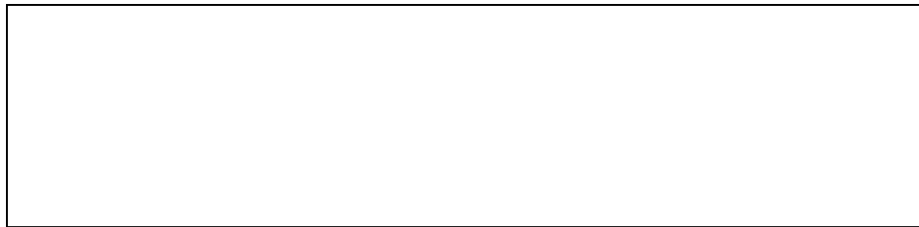
Four Rivers Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
3948 Development Avenue
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Boise, ID 83705



If you haven't yet indicated your interest in the planning process, but would still like to be involved, please fill out the following, fold, tape and mail. If you have already done so, THANK YOU!

My main area(s) of interest are: (You may check more than one)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation (includes Wilderness and rivers) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian and Wetland Habitats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grazing | <input type="checkbox"/> Socio-economic Impacts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OHV/Transportation Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Special status plants/animals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land tenure | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None, please remove my name from the RMP mailing list. | |

Name (please print) _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail Address (optional) _____

Office Phone (optional) _____ Home Phone (optional) _____

Preferred Method of Notification: ☐ Regular Mail ☐ E-mail ☐ Web-Updates